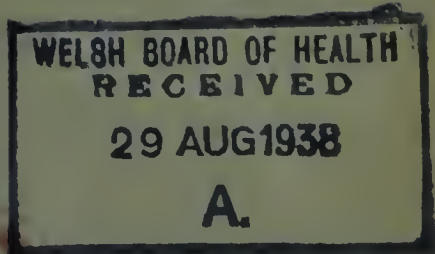


Whitehead



Haverfordwest Rural District Council

: ANNUAL REPORT :

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1937.



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To the Chairman and Members of the Haverfordwest Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,—I beg to submit my Report for the year 1937.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres)	173,772
Population	19,390

Rateable value and sum represented by a 1d. rate, £143.

Births.	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	263	138	125
Illegitimate.	21	10	11

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 14.6

Still-births.

Legitimate	15	6	9
Illegitimate.	2	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 24.6.			

Deaths.	280	127	153
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Rate per 1,000 total of the estimated resident population, 14.4.

DEATHS.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal Causes	0
Of Infants under 1 year:—	
Legitimate	16
Illegitimate.	3

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

There is one part-time Medical Officer who also carries out the duties of Public Vaccinator and Public Assistance Medical Officer of Fishguard and District.

Two Sanitary Inspectors—one for the North and South area—both hold certificates of the Sanitary Institute.

One Vaccination Officer who also holds the appointment of Registrar of Births and Deaths.

There are 15 Nurses employed in the district under the District Nursing Association. They also carry out health visiting for the County Council, all are qualified Midwives (C.M.B.) and are partly trained in general nursing.

Hospitals.

The County Memorial Hospital at Haverfordwest has accommodation for 60 patients. In the coming year with alterations and new extensions the number of beds will be increased to 100. Extensions made to the Hospital include a new Ward, and residential quarters for a House Surgeon; New X Ray Department, with an up-to-date plant, and a new Operating Theatre have been established during the year.

The Sealyham Hospital at St. Dogwells, under the King Edward Welsh Memorial Association, having accommodation for thirty patients suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

St. Bride's Hospital also under the same controlling authority, has accommodation for 130 children suffering from surgical tuberculosis—age limit 14 years.

Fever.

The Hospital for infectious diseases is at Pembroke Dock average number of beds number 26.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies.

The Regional Water Scheme which was passed by the Council last year for the supply of water by a piped line from Hot Wells above Little Newcastle to Solva to include the neighbouring villages is now near completion. An ample supply of water will be available for seven parishes and most of the coastal villages. It is hoped that this scheme will be extended to St. Davids. Three new water schemes are under consideration to supply the parishes of Llanstadwell and Langwm including Hook and Freystrop at a cost of approximately £10,000.

The water supply to Broad Haven is unsatisfactory, the quantity is insufficient during the summer months, one of the possible causes of this shortage is that a number of dwellings on a site known as Swanswell, situated at a higher level geographically than the greater part of the village draw off from the reservoir from one or more stand-pipes. An auxillary supply has been used in the past during times of shortage from a place known as Wells Hill. This source of supply is not satisfactory.

Damage and Sewerage.

The villages of Letterston, St. Davids, Broad and Little Haven have adopted a house refuse collection scheme. The Council should embark on a proper sewerage scheme for these places including Solva. The whole question needs a thorough investigation. At Broad Haven a pond situated in the centre of the village is used as a common dump by all and sundry for the disposal of rubbish of all descriptions including slops. There is easy access to this pond which becomes an evil-smelling nuisance in the hot weather. There is an overflow which gains access to the sea by way of a water course running through the centre of the village. This latter stream is choked up frequently. In short, the stream is none other than an open sewer finding its way to the beach.

In spite of rigid attention by the Sanitary Inspector slop pails are emptied on the foreshore at Little Haven.

Public Conveniences.

Suitable sites have been purchased for the erection of public conveniences at St. Davids, Broad Haven, and Newgale.

Schools.

There are 38 Non-Provided Schools and 25 Council Schools in the district. With the Regional Water Schemes completed there should be no cause for complaint.

Slaughter Houses.

Number registered: North, 17; South 8.

One carcase of a sheep and 3 cows livers were destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

There is one knackers yard situated on Wiston Mountain for the disposal of dead animals.

Milk Supplies.

The general cleanliness of the Cowsheds and Dairies is satisfactory.

In the North—No. of sellers of milk—Retail	41
Wholesale.....	38
In the South—Retail	54
Wholesale.....	69
Number producing Grade A Milk	24
Number producing Tuberculin Tested Milk	6

Periodical inspections by the Sanitary Inspectors are made and samples of milk are taken by the Police authorities and by the Inspectors when authorised.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA. ●

Number and Nature of Inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors :—

Inspections	860
Notices served—Informal	132
Notices served—Statutory	22
Drains and Offensive Middens	21
Provision of Sanitary Conveniences	16
Pigstyes, Cowsheds, Dairies, & Slaughter Houses	46
Offensive Accumulation of Manure and Refuse...	37
Pollution and Improvement of Water Supplies...	11
Repair and Cleanliness of Houses	33
House Drains connected to Cesspits	21
Privies converted into W.C.	13
Slop Water nuisances	38

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat and other Foods.

No action was taken under the various Acts and other Regulations controlling the various foods.

HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year :—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health of Housing Acts..... 506
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 578
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included and recorded (1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 81
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 102
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 46
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 47

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal..... Notices :—

- Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 43

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930—
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 52
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By Owners 52
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners..... 0

b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	101
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	89
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.....	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 31 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	16
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding and Slum Clearance.

	N.	S.
(a) No. of dwellings overcrowded	29	48
No. of families dwelling there	32	53
No. of persons concerned	125	287
		N. & S.
(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding in the year.....		10
No. of persons concerned		28

In the South 68 new houses have been approved for erection during the year and 6 cottages were renovated by grants under the Rural Workers' Act. 6 cottages have been renovated by the owners. In the North 16 new houses are being built; 13 are being reconstructed under the Rural Workers' Act, and 5 cottages have been renovated by the owners.

BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES.

A Laboratory is attached to the Public Health Department at Haverrfordwest where the examination of Swabs from suspected diphtheria cases is carried out. Arrangements are made for the examination of other special specimens at the Beck Laboratory attached to the Swansea General Hospital.

VACCINATION.

The number vaccinated during the year were :—

Primary	76
Secondary	6

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORK-PLACES

Registered.

	North Area.	South Area.
Flour Mills	4	1
Wool Mills	9	2
Printing	1	0
Tailoring	10	0
Joinery	10	6
Bakehouses	9	8
Bookmaking	1	1
Smithy	7	12
Brickworks	0	1
Mineral Water Works	0	2
Steam Laundry	0	1
Engineering Works	0	1
Herring Factory	0	1
Carpenters	0	14
Hay-pressing	0	1
Corn Mills	0	3

These were all inspected and found satisfactory. Notices served were for minor defects and shewn as follows :—

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Work-places.

	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories	12	0	0
(including Factory Laundries).			
Workshops	13	4	0
(including Workshop Laundries).			
Workplaces	16	5	0
(other than Outworkers' premises).			
Total	41	9	0

Rag Flock Acts :—

There are no premises in the district where Rag and Flock is manufactured or sold.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	38	16	0
Diphtheria	6	0	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	5	0	2
Erysipelas	0	0	0

On the whole there were fewer cases of infectious diseases occurring in the year. The majority of cases of scarlet fever were of a mild form and more often were not seen until late and their removal to Hospital then of less importance.

● Of the unnotifiable diseases, as usual, measles and whooping cough were prevalent and difficult to contend with. In certain instances children suffering with whooping cough were attending schools. Some parents appear to pay more attention to keeping the school attendance record of their children intact and show little consideration for others. As they are well aware that both measles and whooping cough are highly infectious and debilitating and are worthy of more skilled attention than is usually sought for.

The Dicks and Schicks Tests.

Neither of these tests were made use of during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases of Mortality.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1	1		1	1				1
5	3	1		1	1			
15	4	5	1	1	1	1	1	
25	5	4				1		
35	2	1	1		1	3		
45	3	3		1	2			
55	1	2			2			
65 and upwards								
Totals	19	16	3	4	7	5	1	1

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1935. There were 47 cases notified and 20 deaths recorded.

The notification of cases in the district continued to be satisfactory.

The premises and clothing of patients removed to Hospitals or after death were attended to.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Diphtheria	9
Influenza	11
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	17
Tuberculosis—Other Forms	3
Cancer	33
Diabetes	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	18
Heart Disease	59
Other Circulatory Diseases	21
Bronchitis	5
Pneumonia	11
Other Respiratory Diseases	6
Digestion Diseases	4
Nephritis	12
Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Causes	0
Appendicitis	0
Senility	17
Suicide	1
Violence	6
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1
Whooping Cough	5
Premature Births	15

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. HOWARD OWEN, M.O.H., R.D.





